

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims are 1-3 and 5-13. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 4 and to specify that the cover layer is opaque. Accordingly, claim 4 has been canceled, and claims 6 and 7, which previously depended on claim 4, have been amended to depend on claim 1. These claims and claims 2-3 and 8-13 have also been amended to improve their form. Support for the claims may be found, inter alia, in the disclosure at pages 3 and 5. Reconsideration is expressly requested.

Claims 2, 3 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the reasons set forth on page 2 of the Office Action. In response, Applicants have, inter alia, amended claims 2, 3, and 10 to improve their form, which it is respectfully submitted overcomes the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1 and 2 (and presumably claims 3-4 and 6-13) were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Faykish et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,169,707*. The remaining claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Faykish et al.* Essentially, the Examiner's position was that

Faykish et al. discloses the illuminable information unit recited in the claims, except for a cover layer covering only a part of the light-scattering element, which was considered within the skill of the art.

In response, Applicants have amended claim 1 to better define the invention and respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection for the following reasons.

As set forth in claim 1 as amended, Applicants' invention provides an illuminable information unit for technical apparatus or machines. Visible display elements of the information unit are formed by at least one light-scattering plastic element, with which transparent scatter bodies are embedded into a transparent plastic mass. The light-scattering plastic element is provided with an opaque cover layer, which includes recesses which may be produced by way of laser processing.

In this way, Applicants' invention provides an illuminable information unit for technical apparatus or machines which is readable day and night independently of the viewing angle, and may be manufactured particularly inexpensively. By providing a cover layer that is opaque including recesses which may be

produced by way of laser processing, light scattered in the scatter body exit the display element in a targeted manner only at the recesses.

Faykish et al. fails to disclose or suggest an illuminable information unit wherein visible display elements of the information unit are formed by at least one light-scattering plastic element provided with an opaque cover layer. *Faykish et al.* relates to a retroreflective security laminate designed to be applied to the surface of a document such as a driver's license or an ID card, not an illuminable information unit within the meaning of Applicants' claim 1 as amended.

Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that the cover layer 14 of *Faykish et al.* is not an optically opaque cover layer within the meaning of claim 1 as amended. Instead, cover layer 14 of *Faykish et al.* serves to mechanically protect the base sheet of the laminate such that the laminate will retain its visual retroreflective verification features during use. It preferably protects the pattern of image forming material which forms the primary legend as well. Furthermore, it is typically preferred that the cover sheet be highly transparent so as to facilitate any underlying information and permit clear inspection

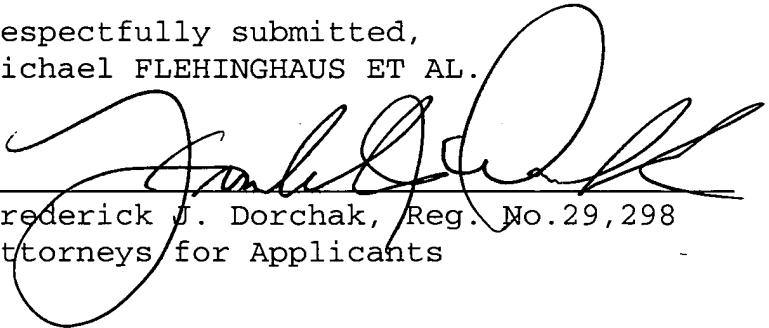
of the primary legend. See col. 10, lines 35-65 of *Faykish et al.* Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 as amended together with claims 2-3 and 5-13, which depend directly or indirectly thereon, contain patentable and unobvious subject matter.

In summary, claims 1-3 and 5-13 have been amended, and claim 4 has been canceled. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that this case be passed to issue.

Applicants also submits herewith a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement.


Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosure: Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on May 7, 2008.


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